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Good afternoon (ladies) gentlemen:

My name is Dawn Apuzzo. I am a 40 year old single parent who grew up in North Haven & continues to live in No. Haven. At the age of 14 I began to experience sudden hair loss. A dermatologist diagnosed me with Alopecia, which is unknown hair loss. Everyday I watched more & more hair come off my head & go down the drain everytime I took a shower. Within a few months my head was as bald as a

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ping-pong ball. Many treatments such as Cortizone injections & topical solutions such as Minoxidil had failed me & I was told by the doctor that I should just accept the fact that my hair was gone and it wasn't going to grow back. I was so devastated @ that age just trying to understand why, why did this have to happen to me? To this day, 26 years later, I still don't have an answer.

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to that question & at the same time I still don't have hair, eyelashes or eyebrows. Neither the cause nor the failed treatments are my fault, but yet my ins. company is discriminating against me as well as other women who suffer from hair loss other than the results of chemotherapy. I'm very interested in getting this state mandated ins. coverage changed to include other medical reasons.

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for hair loss other than cancer. I never asked to get Alopecia just like nobody asks to get cancer. There are just certain things in life that you cannot control & this happens to be one of them for me. The bottom line is I need to wear a wig to function in my everyday life outside of my home. I do not wear it for a cosmetic reason just as a cancer patient would.

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not wear it for the exact same reason. I strongly feel that I should be able to benefit from this ins. coverage just as a cancer patient would. The premiums that my employer & I pay each month are high & will continue to sky rocket as the ins. industry is so out of control. My premiums are paid & paid on time and I cannot even use the coverage for a wig because the benefit has a

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restriction placed upon it. If an ins. company is going to have medical coverage for wigs, then there shouldn't be a restriction as to who can benefit from it & who can't depending upon the person's medical condition. Medical hair loss is medical hair loss regardless of anyone's diagnosis. Most women are devastated by the hair loss itself. In my case, it took me almost 20 years

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to completely accept the fact that my hair fell out & is not growing back. I have no choice but to deal with my hair loss on a daily basis where a cancer patient's hair will most likely grow back after treatments have stopped. When you add the fact that I cannot use a medical benefit from the IHS. That I pay for, well, that is unfair & makes me angry. This may not sound like a big deal to

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most people, but it's a personal matter for me & I'd like to see some positive results in the end. I wear make-up for cosmetic reasons because I don't like the way I look without eyelashes. I wear a wig, on the other hand, for necessary reasons because society doesn't accept female baldness as it does for male baldness.